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THE TIMES FOUNDED 1864. THE DISPATCH FOUNDED 1869.

WHOLE NUMBER 18,155.

RICHMOND, VA., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1910.

THE WEATHER TO-DAY: CLOUDY.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

HOUSE ENDORSES LOCAL HOME RULE

Augusta Road Bill Is Passed by Large Majority.

AMENDMENTS TO FLETCHER BILL

Senate Spends Day Discussing Tax Equalization—One Bill Goes Through in Each House—Bodies Disagree on Date for Introduction of New Bills.

Local option against State option, analyzed and discussed until fundamental principles were reached, was thrashed out yesterday on the floor of the House of Delegates. The question under debate did not concern the sale of liquor, but none the less the issue involved was whether a community should be allowed to settle an important matter for itself or whether the State should interfere upon the hypothesis that the people of the whole Commonwealth might ultimately be affected. When the smoke of battle cleared away, the local option was on top by a vote of 71 to 15.

The bill under consideration was Senate Bill No. 1, amending the road laws of Augusta county. For the second time during the present session, Speaker Boyd got on the floor and led the fight for local self-government, coming out victorious. The principal speech on the other side of the question was made by Mr. Tallaferr.

Purpose of Bill. Argument raged around a measure allowing certain highways in Augusta county, built partly by State aid, to pass under the control of the local Board of Supervisors and empowering that body to erect toll-gates thereon for the purpose of earning revenue to maintain the roads.

The bill was backed by the Augusta county delegation and no local opposition appeared, but the House Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation reported it with a recommendation that it should not pass. The idea of the committee was that the dangerous precedent was being set in allowing free roads built in part with funds from the State treasury to be made into toll roads, and that such action would be the entering wedge against State aid to road building. It was feared that the time might come when all over the State the people should be made to pay for travel over highways paid for partly with the funds of the public.

On the other hand, it was argued that the people of Augusta county wanted and needed this measure, and that it should not be denied them.

Man Bill Acted On. This was the only bill finally passed by the House, but twenty-nine House bills went through on their second reading and were ordered to their engrossment. This was done upon a special order designed to keep local uncontested bills upon the calendar, and thus to have the clerks get busy now on work they would inevitably have to do before the end of the session.

Considerable opposition developed to the Throckmorton bill providing for the determination of sentences of criminals, whereupon the House requested that it be sent to conference.

Inquiry as to why the superintendents of State hospitals for the insane are paid varying salaries was made by the House Committee on Insanity, under instruction contained in a resolution offered by Mr. Williams, of Giles, and adopted.

The House amended the Senate resolution fixing the final date for the introduction of new bills by making it February 19 instead of February 26. The Senate rejected the amendment, whereupon the House requested that it be sent to conference.

To-day the Joint Committee on Insurance and Banking will consider the bill establishing a Bureau of Banking, and the House Committee on Agriculture and Mining will have a hearing on the Throckmorton dairy bill. To-morrow morning the Clement automobile tax bill will have a hearing, while on Saturday the hotel bill will be thrashed out.

Fletcher Bill Amendment. The Senate spent the day discussing various amendments to the Fletcher tax equalization bill. No action was taken on any of these propositions. Senator Tucker suggested a sort of combination of the Fletcher and King bills, by which a tax commission should be formed at once and take hold of the 1910 real estate assessment as well as the permanent tax system. Senator Sims presented an amendment which would have toned down the feature of the Fletcher bill which penalizes real estate assessors who fail to properly appraise property values. Senator Parsons has a plan for equalization by local officials.

Senator Strode would have the State Auditor given the power to summon assessors to Richmond for purposes of conference as to values. He also suggests a plan to put the taxation of corporations in the hands of the State Auditor and the Attorney-General, and the right of appeal to the Supreme Court if the State Corporation Commission declines to correct its assessments of corporations accordingly.

The Senate, like the House, passed only one bill, a local measure.

New Bills Offered. Senator Chase introduced a bill providing for the election of circuit judges by a vote of the people.

Senator Parks would prohibit the storing of meats and fruits for the purpose of selling in the future at an advanced price.

A proposal to have the State Corporation Commission evolve a scientific plan of taxation is proposed in a bill offered by Senator Lassiter.

A big batch of new bills came into the House. Two of these are by Mr. West, of Nansemond. One would establish a fee book for officers whose compensation is derived in whole or in part from fees, so that the public would form some idea of what amount of money such officers make. The other

(Continued on Third Page.)

SAUNDERS WIS PAID LOBBYIST

Admits He Received \$1,000 While Vice-Chairman City Committee.

NO LONGER "BOSS" DECLARES ROYALL

Pollard and McCarthy Swear That Saunders Was "Corrupt Politician" and Had "Evil Influence on City Politics"—Says He Obeyed Meredith.

Three witnesses called yesterday afternoon in the trial of the damage suit brought by Clyde W. Saunders against A. A. Yoder and the Williams Printing Company for \$20,000 damages for the publication of alleged libelous statements testified that it was common knowledge and a matter of general opinion that Mr. Saunders had been in the city a "corrupt politician," and that he had a mysterious and evil influence in the control of certain elections. Mr. Saunders, on the witness stand himself, admitted receiving \$1,000 from the Southern Bell Telephone Company to use his influence with certain councilmen to secure their votes for a franchise, at a time when Mr. Saunders was a member of the City Democratic Committee, and according to the attorneys had a certain influence in the election or re-election of Councilmen.

A lawyer who said the case is being warmly contested. The jury was sent from the room time and again, while the attorneys argued points of law or the admissibility of certain evidence. Charles V. Meredith is taking the leading part in the examination of witnesses for Yoder and Williams, while Robert E. Scott, of Scott, Buchanan and Cardwell, is directing the case for Saunders. A large number of witnesses are yet to be heard.

Street Car Franchises. One of the features of the case will be the introduction of stenographic records of a Council investigating committee, and certain grand jury records involving the methods employed to obtain certain street car franchises. Mr. Saunders admitted yesterday having been retained by the Richmond Traction Company at one time, and engaged in a sharp tilt with Mr. Meredith by asserting that he had himself advised the employment of Mr. Meredith as counsel, and that they had worked together before Council committees in securing franchise extensions. Mr. Meredith asserted that he had been employed merely as an attorney to argue the city ordinances before the committees, and had no part in any lobbying that may have been going on.

Mr. Saunders' suit is based on certain publications made in July, 1909, in which he is charged with being a "crooked politician." In his declaration he asserts that his character in the community has been defamed; that he has been humiliated, and has suffered losses in his business.

Mr. Saunders was on the stand for the greater part of the day, both morning and afternoon. Mr. Saunders testified that the pamphlet containing the alleged libel appeared on the day of the Democratic primary, in which he was defeated for re-election to the City Democratic Committee. After prolonged wrangling between the attorneys, evidence was admitted to show that Mr. Saunders had not done the general printing business this year, but had been doing it for two years, his witness placing his loss at \$1,000.

Did Candidates Print. The attorneys sought to show that in the past, because of Mr. Saunders' reputed position as Democratic boss, candidates for office had always had the printing done at his place of business. Mr. Saunders said that was not always the case. On cross-examination the witness said that the particular expression which had injured him was the use of the term "boss," and that he had been called so since ever since William L. Royall started in 1905, but that "no one took Mr. Royall seriously."

Mr. Meredith then sent for the files of The Times-Dispatch for the year 1905, and taking the newspaper argued that he had been called a boss, and that the question of the witness as to the conduct of the senatorial campaign of that year.

The particular articles were the call of Mr. Royall and 200 other citizens for a mass-meeting in the Capitol building, by which a tax commission should be formed at once and take hold of the 1910 real estate assessment as well as the permanent tax system. Mr. Royall took a lantern into the square, saying that, like Diogenes, he was "hunting for an honest man in city politics."

Mr. Meredith read from the Royall charges, that Saunders had been responsible for the appointment of election officers at Second Monroe and Second Lee precincts, and that "the ballot boxes had been stuffed in both."

Recommended Nine Judges. Mr. Saunders then recommended the appointment of a man named Wise, thinking it was another man, and said that Wise and the other judges at the precinct had named a man named Culbertson to fill a vacancy. Wise and Culbertson were later indicted for stuffing the ballot boxes. Mr. Saunders admitted having recommended the electoral board nine of the election officers in that election. At the time of the Royall call for a mass-meeting when the charge was made that "the boss of Richmond had named the election officers at two precincts and the boxes had been stuffed in each," Mr. Saunders said he was not directly informed that Mr. Royall was referring to himself as "boss." Later he found out, but after the senatorial primary things had quieted down and he had not taken the trouble to call Mr. Royall and the courts to show his assertions. He said his friends had not taken Mr. Royall's charge seriously.

The tilt with Mr. Meredith over the Traction Company franchise was heated, and will be renewed to-day when grand jury evidence will be introduced to show what amount Mr. Saunders received for his influence. He was

(Continued on Second Page.)

UNION OF CITIES HANGS IN BALANCE

New Move of Opponents to Dodge Responsibility of Voting.

ESTIMATES SHOW WHAT COST WILL BE

Increased Assessment, With Dropping Off of Office Holders as Terms Expire, Will Make Manchester Self-Supporting in Two Years.

Opponents of consolidation of Richmond and Manchester are preparing as a defensive move in the event that they have not enough votes to defeat the ordinance for the union of the cities when it comes up in the Common Council on Monday night to move as a substitute to Council action, that the question be submitted to a vote of the people of Richmond. The suggestion is taken by some Councilmen as an effort on the part of others to dodge the main issue, and to get out of going on record in the face of the coming spring election, for or against the measure. The cost of such an election has not been considered, but it would certainly entail several thousand dollars, and probably delay the whole matter until too late to have the consolidated population appear in the Government Census of 1910, which is admitted to be the greatest single advantage of the annexation.

A former President of the Chamber of Commerce, L. Z. Morris summed the matter up concretely last night when he said: "The whole question is whether we shall stand still and dry rot, or go forward. The little men cannot see anything bigger than the putting in of a few alleys and gutters."

"Bigger men look to the future and see a big, progressive, united, vigorous city, advancing steadily along all lines of commercial, industrial and civic progress."

Would Dodge Responsibility. Among Councilmen it is admitted that the matter has reached a critical stage, that it hangs on a vote or two in either branch, and the move of the opposition is taken by some as an admission of defeat in the Council, for there are a number who will vote for the measure if it comes to a square issue, but who would be glad to sidestep the responsibility by voting for a resolution to submit the matter to a vote of the people.

Such an action, according to some, would leave the people of this city to vote without the advice of their Councilmen. The men who have been elected to represent the various wards in the city government are regarded as in one sense experts in city government. They are men who are at least supposed to give a large part of their time to consideration of civic matters, and to be in a position to give a more intelligent opinion than the mass of voters at large. Business men who favor consolidation are clear, however, that they do not fear the result of an election, however strong an organization might be effected by those who have private interests at stake, but they hold that it is a matter for the Council to determine as men, regardless of the threats of ward leaders who predict dark things for the coming election. Since there has under the law to be an election in Manchester, it is evident that to call one in this city would result in delaying the whole matter until after the census.

The mere matter of securing a list of the qualified voters of this city on the basis of those qualified to vote in the June general election, according to court officials, would be a work of several months, as the large number of precincts requires that such a list be printed and corrected. Even under ordinary circumstances it will require every effort to have the list ready for the proposed councilmanic primary late in April.

Would Lose Nothing. Besides the office-holders of the two cities, who are almost universally opposed to the union—those of Manchester because they fear that they will eventually lose out, and those of Richmond who anticipate additional work, the chief opposition in Richmond has come from the outlying wards, which are in need of large improvements. Clay, Lee and Marshall wards secured the largest slice of the annexation of 1906, and have to-day the largest area of unimproved territory. Generally speaking, the representatives of those wards oppose further enlargement of the boundaries of Richmond. Chairman Pollard, of the Finance Committee, is authority for the statement that not one penny that would have been spent in the recently annexed territory will be diverted on account of the Manchester annexation. The area taken in 1906, while far from being finished, has received far more than the city promised.

In addition to the \$125,000 bond issue agreed upon in the terms of the annexation, practically all of which has now been spent, the city has recently issued \$1,500,000 of sewer and water bonds, of which more than \$1,000,000 is for expenditure this year on the annexed territory. As soon as the main trunk sewers and water mains are in the graving of the surface

(Continued on Second Page.)

MAKE SHORT WORK OF INVESTIGATION

Republicans Fear Danger of Long Drawn Out Inquiry.

HIGH PRICES MAY HURT THEIR PARTY

Lodge Will Head Committee to Find Out Why It Costs So Much to Live—Leaders Will Try to Push Taft's Program Through.

Washington, D. C., February 2.—Frankly admitting fear that a prolonged investigation of the increased cost of living by the Ways and Means Committee of the House, or as provided for by any of the rival resolutions, might drag throughout the summer and work to the disadvantage of the Republicans in the elections next fall, the Senate Finance Committee formulated a program for a quick, sharp inquiry of the subject in all its phases.

This important question was considered by the Republican members of the committee, and as a result, Senator Lodge introduced in the Senate a resolution providing for the appointment of a select committee of five Senators to do the work.

Emphasizing Problem. No problem it is said, has proved so embarrassing to the Republican party during its long continued control of Congress. When the majority of the Finance Committee met to-day, consideration was given to demands for every section of the country that something be done to restore normal prices on all necessities of life. Several Senators declared that the high prices would be attributed directly to the tariff, and that unless something were done to refute these charges the Republican party would be compelled to bear the brunt of the attack.

Suggestion was made that the proposed investigation by the Ways and Means Committee of the House would accomplish every purpose, but after examination of the "Resolution" introduced by Chairman Payne yesterday, it was characterized as a "dragnet." The opinion was expressed generally that such an inquiry as was proposed by the House would not be concluded in time to be of assistance to Republicans in their campaign for re-election.

Lodge Makes Offer. Senator Lodge, after remonstrating vigorously, finally agreed that he would undertake to conduct a rigid investigation and report to the present session of Congress, if he were chosen the head of a committee. Acting upon that promise a resolution was drafted and later introduced by Mr. Lodge providing for the committee of five Senators.

As drafted, the Lodge resolution will include an investigation into the cost of living by leaders of the Senate and House and given the stamp of White House approval, comprises the following legislation:

Statehood for Arizona and New Mexico in the form of the Senate bill, which provides for a ratification by Congress of the Constitution of the new States after approval by the President.

Postal savings banks, with safeguards against funds being transferred from sections where originally deposited to the money centers.

The President authority to withdraw from entry public lands desired for conservation purposes or for classification, the withdrawals to remain in force until revoked by him or by acts of Congress.

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His Sister Here. Dr. Edward S. Cowles, who is the complainant in the court-martial of Paymaster George P. Auld, U. S. N., in the Chaplains Navy Yard, Boston, is a Virginian by birth and education, and is well-known in Richmond and Williamsburg.

He was a student at William and Mary College several years, but failed to graduate, and afterwards attended one of the Richmond medical colleges, in which he received his M. D. His brother, William Cowles, who is also a student at the same institution, graduated in Richmond with the same degree.

Both young men are brothers of Mrs. Channing Turner, of Third and Franklin Streets, with whom they boarded while students here. Mrs. Turner is in correspondence with her brother but stated last night that she had not yet received from him the details of his election by Paymaster Auld and Dr. Avery H. Robnett from the dance at the Navy Yard on December 11, which caused the present court-martial.

Some Plain Talk. All the Republican members of the Senate Committee on Finance had a meeting early to-day in advance of the regular session. Some pretty plain talk was indulged in by Chairman Aldrich, of the Finance Committee, and his assistants over the situation in which the Republican party has found itself by reason of opposition to certain of the platform pledges which had been endorsed unequivocally by Mr. Taft in his campaign speeches and on trips over the country since he assumed office.

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

SUSPECTED OF MURDER, FILES SUIT FOR SLANDER



THOMAS H. SWOPE. Colonel Thomas H. Swope, a wealthy Kansas City (Mo.) resident, died under peculiar circumstances, as did several immediate members of his family. Dr. Hyde, who had married a niece of Swope, was present during his last few days of the colonel's illness and brought suit for several hundred thousand dollars against various defendants for implying that he might have had something to do with his wife's uncle's death.

THINK DR. COWLES NOT PROPER GUEST

For That Reason Officers Sought to Eject Him From Navy Yard Dance.

AULD TELLS HIS STORY

Miss Ames Wishes to Relate "Real Cause," But Is Stopped by Court.

Boston, Mass., February 2.—The Charlestown navy yard's social set, which has crowded the big dance hall three times this week at the court-martial of Paymaster George P. Auld for conduct unbecoming a gentleman and officer, just missed hearing to-day from the lips of one of the numerous women witnesses what she claimed was the real cause of the eliectment of Dr. E. S. Cowles from the dance of December 11. Miss Margaret Ames, daughter of Dr. Ames, of the navy, wanted to tell the cause, but the court preferred to hear Paymaster Auld's version of the affair. The day's session was practically given up to the young officer's defense of himself.

It appeared from his statement that several of the dancing set at the yard danced Dr. Cowles for days before the dance, and that he had been there for several days before he received permission from Miss Ames to have Dr. Cowles kept from the dance on account of certain remarks in which the name of Mrs. Dorothy Heister, of Evanston, Ill., was involved. When Mr. Auld asked Dr. Cowles to retire from the hall, following which the two met in the corridor below and continued their altercation with Dr. G. A. S. Robnett, who will be tried later, as a witness.

Mr. Auld denied to-day that he struck Dr. Cowles, but did admit that he took him by the shoulders and that in the wrestling which ensued Dr. Cowles was thrown to the floor. Mr. Auld said that he considered that he was acting for the dance committee in speaking to Cowles, whom he personally did not think a proper guest at the dance.

This practically concluded the testimony in the case, and to-morrow arguments will be made. Dr. Robnett's trial, on a similar charge, is expected to begin Friday.

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SEVENTY LIVES ARE SACRIFICED IN MINE HORROR

Underground Workers Pay Penalty of Somebody's Negligence.

"DAMP" EXPLODED BY CIGARETTE

Rescuers Find Bodies of Victims Scattered About the Workings—Scores Are Injured and Dying in Hospitals. One of Worst Disasters in Mexican Fields.

This Week's Mine Horrors

Monday—Explosion in mine at Primerio, Cal., caused by match surreptitiously taken into workings; dead, 75.

Tuesday—Black damp in mine at Browder, Ky., exploded by uncovered lamp; dead, 34.

Wednesday—Explosion of gases in Palan Mine, at Las Esperanzas, Mexico, caused by cigarette; dead, 70. The week's death list, 179.

Laredo, Tex., February 2.—One of the greatest disasters in the history of Mexican coal mining, which has heretofore experienced several crushing blows, resulting in a tremendous loss of human life, took place early to-day in the Palan Mine at Las Esperanzas, Mexico. The toll of human life which paid the penalty of negligence on the part of some miner is officially placed at seventy, while the list of injured numbers nearly as many, principally Mexicans and Japanese.

The explosion occurred in the No. 1 shaft of the coal mine of the Esperanzas Mining Company, and is attributed to the ignition of gas by the flames of a miner's cigarette.

About 8:30 o'clock those at work above ground were startled by a loud explosion, and almost instantly a vast cloud of dust and smoke issued from the mouth of the shaft.

Risk Lives in Rescue. As soon as the air in the shaft could be purified sufficiently to permit rescuers to descend, many volunteers were ready to risk their lives in an endeavor to succor their stricken brothers below.

Three cages were soon lowered, all loaded to their utmost capacity with miners bent on rescuing their comrades. In the first and second levels everything was found to be intact, and beyond being terribly frightened, the men working in these levels were safe. They were brought to the top as rapidly as the cages could be loaded.

In the third level a terrible sight met the eyes of the rescuers. Scattered about in various positions in the workings, they found the bodies of the men, suffocated, their faces indicating in many instances the bitter fight they had waged to reach pure air and safety.

The workers were augmented by the addition of many other able-bodied men, and immediately began to work in relays, searching for and carrying to the surface the bodies of their dead comrades.

After the lapse of six hours' work sixty-five bodies were brought to the surface, while nearly forty injured men were removed to hospitals for treatment, where three have died. The injured owe their miraculous escape to the fact that they were working at the time the explosion occurred in the workings where they were partially protected from the on-rush of foul air.

Distressing Scenes. Screaming women and children were congregated about the mouth of the shaft, awaiting with hope the bringing out of their loved ones, a hope which was in almost every instance turned to despair as body after body was brought to the surface.

State representatives were immediately sent to the scene and placed in charge of the work of rescue and investigation.

The Palan is one of the best equipped coal mines in the republic of Mexico. It has an adequate ventilating system, is provided with electric lights, and the mining officials are utterly at a loss to account for the cause of mine damp in No. 3 workings.

No stone will be left unturned for the company to afford relief for the bereaved. The hope of the dead will be interred to-morrow.

Death Total Is 75. Primerio, Cal., February 2.—Monday's explosion in the mine of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company claimed a total of seventy-five victims and left thirty-five widows and sixty-five fatherless children.

These facts were determined late this afternoon, when the official canvass of the camp was completed and the names of the missing men were checked with the payroll.

Exploration of the workings continued all day, but not until 8 o'clock of Monday. It has been a desperate struggle, when the bodies of two drivers, unidentified, were found in a cross cut between entries A-11 and A-12, and the number of bodies recovered had remained at forty-eight, but workers succeeded in penetrating portions of the mine hitherto held from invasion by afterdamp.

While work underground continued unabated, practically the only activity apparent at the camp to-day was that of the force of men detailed to assist the coroner in preparing the bodies for burial.

Late this afternoon Coroner Guilford sent four bodies to Trinidad on a special train, and to-morrow probably will forward the remaining sixteen to that city, where a general funeral will be held.

Late this afternoon a semi-official statement was given out which showed that the exploring parties have penetrated

Illustrated Sunday Magazine

Beginning next Sunday, The Times-Dispatch will present to its readers—

"The Illustrated Sunday Magazine of The Times-Dispatch," containing short and continued

stories, beautifully illustrated, as well as poems and matters of world-wide interest. The cover,

printed in delicate colors, is a work of art, and the whole magazine ranks with the best in the country. Send in your orders now.

GIFT FROM ROCKEFELLER

Donations to Colleges Have Usual Strings Attached.

New York, February 2.—Five colleges and two universities were the recipients of conditional gifts and appropriations made by the Rockefeller fund of the General Education Board, which held its seventh annual meeting to-day. The following are the favored institutions:

Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., gift of \$100,000, on condition that the college raise an endowment of \$1,000,000; Wesleyan University, Middlebury, Conn., \$100,000 toward \$1,000,000; Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Ia., \$50,000 toward \$200,000; Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky., \$25,000 toward \$100,000; the Women's College in Brown University, Providence, R. I., \$50,000 toward \$200,000; Salem College (for women), Winston-Salem, N. C., \$25,000 toward \$200,000.

Requests were received from forty-two institutions of learning in the United States for a share in the appropriations, the aggregate amount of the requests being in excess of \$4,000,000.